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HISTORICAL NOTES.

COTTON MANUFACTURING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The following item from *The South-Carolina and American General Gazette* for Thursday, January 30, 1777, furnishes an illustration of the beginning of the development of the cotton manufacturing industry in South Carolina:

We are well informed, that a Planter to the Southward, who three Months ago had not a Negro that could either spin or weave, has now 30 Hands constantly employed, from whom he gets 120 Yards of good wearable Stuff, made of Woollen and Cotton, every Week. He had only one white Woman to instruct the Negroes in Spinning, and one Man to instruct in weaving. He expects to have it in his Power not only to clothe his own Negroes, but soon to supply his Neighbours. The following so laudable an Example will be the most effectual Method of lessening the present exorbitant prices of Cloth.

And the following article reprinted in *The Charleston Mercury* of November 26, 1836, under the heading "Vauclause Factory", gives an idea of the progress of the industry in the succeeding half a century:

Not long since, we made a visit to the Vauclause Factory of this district. This establishment is located 16 miles South of this place, 15 East of Hamburg, and 6 West of Aiken, on Horse Creek. It belongs to a Company which was incorporated three years ago, in the name of "the Vauclause Manufacturing Company." The site is most beautiful and imposing. To one who has been accustomed to hear only of the dull, level piney woods, it will be matter of surprise to know that there are deep, rich valleys, impetuous torrents, towering hills which overlook the surrounding country almost as far as the eye can reach, and a beautiful and varied foliage well calculated to feed the Poet's fancy and gratify to man of taste. The building is of fine granite, admirably constructed, five stories high, 100 feet by 40 feet. The supply of water is ample, there being enough for several such establishments. The Factory has been in operation not quite two years, yet the press for machinery has been such that it has gone into full operation, having consumed from one to one and a half bales of Cotton per day, besides the manufacture of a small portion of Woollens. The machinery, now in a state of preparation, will turn out from \$250 to \$300 worth of Goods per day. There is not the

slightest difficulty in getting a market. From the growing reputation of the Factory, and the high character given its fabrics by the most competent judges, the probability is, that in a year or more, the demand will be quadruple, even at an advanced price. The advantage over Northern Factories is estimated at $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per yard on heavy goods. There are fifty operatives, 30 whites, and 20 blacks. The blacks are equally apt and skilful in every department, except weaving. In this the whites are said to have the advantage, and are equally cheap. We can believe this, for we have seen enough to know that our piney woods weavers are hard to beat. It is a mistake to believe, that black labor cannot be used successfully in a Factory. It is the policy of the North to encourage this belief, and the superior intelligence of the white man is invoked to do that, which, in many instances, calls for no more mind than the grinding of a coffee mill. It is the manifest interest of the Northern mechanics who come among us, to prate lustily of *the mysticism of machinery*, and the exceeding complication of all its operations, with the view of keeping down the competition of slave labor, and securing to themselves extravagant compensation for their services.

There are now in the Vauclease Factory about 1500 spindles and 25 looms, with the necessary machinery, and in a short time, these will be increased to double the amount. It is confidently believed, that the prospects are now far better than they have ever been. Particular circumstances which are within our knowledge, have hitherto retarded its complete success, but we trust that it will soon yield a handsome dividend to the stockholders. Under the supervision of its industrious and enterprising Superintendant, Mr. Gibbs, we think we have a right to expect it. We know that there would be a general regret if this first effort of the kind, in our part of the country, should fail. — *Edgefield Advertiser*.

GEN. WILLIAM HENDERSON.—The following account of the death of Gen. William Henderson is taken from *The State Gazette of South-Carolina* for Monday February 11, 1788:

Died on Tuesday the 29th ult. at his plantation, General William Henderson.—He was a brave and intrepid officer, and much beloved and respected for his many virtues.

CAPT. SWANSON LUNSFORD.—On the State House grounds in Columbia, to the westward of the State House there is a solitary grave enclosed by an iron fence. Over the grave there is a stone bearing the following inscription:

Cap. Swanson Lunsford / a / native of Va. / and for many years / a resident of Columbia / Died August 7th 1799. / Aged about forty

years./ He was a member of / Lee's Legion./ in the eventful period of '76./ This humble tribute to his / memory has been placed / by his only child / Mrs. M. L. & her Husband / Dr. John Douglass / of Chester, S. C.

Up to a few months ago there was a large tree growing above the grave, but that has been removed by the Commission on State House Grounds.

FENWICKE.—The following petition to the Court of Chancery not only gives a little Revolutionary history but a little Fenwicke family history. The original belongs to the collection of Prof. Yates Snowden, of the University of South Carolina, who has kindly allowed it to be copied for publication:

To the Honorable The Judges
of the Court of Chancery in the
State of South Carolina.

The Petition of Robert Gibbes Esq^r. Executor of the last Will & Testament of Edward Fenwicke Esq^r. deceased & one of the Defendants to the Bill of Complaint of Mary DeBrahm & others.

Humbly sheweth,

That when the British Army came into this State in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & seventy nine Edward Fenwicke another of the Defend^{rs}. in the Suit above mentioned sent or carried off with him to Georgia upwards of one hundred negroes & some of them the most valuable that belonged to his Father's Estate—that your Petitioner hath since recovered but thirty two of them & they are of the least Value that the said Edward hath lately received by the Order of the Court one fifth Part of the Negroes still remaining of his Father's Estate altho he has never accounted for those not yet brought back—that there have lately arrived in this State upwards of twenty negroes belonging to the Estate whom the said Edward sent or carried off & he has also possessed himself of them.

Your Petitioner further shews that the Estates of the three youngest Sons Robert William George & John Roger by the Misconduct of the said Edward & his Brother Thomas have been greatly injured & the value as well as the Number of the Negroes they would otherwise have had is thereby considerably lessened. Your Petitioner therefore hopes that the said Edward will be ordered to account before the Master on Oath for the Number of the Negroes that he sent or carried off setting forth particularly their names, Characters Occupation & Value—That the Negroes now in his Possession as well those lately arrived in this State as the fifth Part which were delivered him by

the Order of the Court be divided into three Parts—that one third of them be allotted to Testator's Son John Roger, another to the representatives of Robert William & the remaining third to the representatives of George until they shall have respectively received their due Proportion according to value & not numbers of their Father's estate—that the said Edward be ordered also to account for the Hire of the said Negroes from the Time He sent or carried them off as aforesaid—that the Valuation of the Negroes be settled according to the Appraisement made of them soon after the Testator's Death—that as the demand ag^t. the said Edward has arisen from his taking Negroes & there are Negroes now here therefore whatever share Testator's son John Roger shall be entitled to the said Edward may be obliged to pay him in some of those negroes & not in money.

Your Petitioner also prays that He may be authorized to lay out the Profits of the said John Roger's Estate in Negroes or in such other manner as He shall think most for the Benefit & Advantage of the said Minor.

And your Petitioner will pray

H: Rutledge

for the Pet./

Endorsed: In Chancery
The Petition of Robert
Gibbes Esq^r,
Filed 22 Septemb
1785

H: Rutledge